IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read as follows: --SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ALLOCATING MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO SELLERS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 1-12 and insert the following new claims therefor:

--13.   A system operating on at least one computer for allowing allocation of products among sellers, comprising:

a hierarchy of at least two seller models, each representing a seller for a product having an associated product forecast model, the forecast model representing:

forecasted sales of the product through each seller according to a commitment level for the seller and forecasted sales through other sellers in the hierarchy;

planned supply of the product;

customer orders for the product through each seller; and

allocated supply of the product to each seller, representing the sum of promises from suppliers plus any customer promises;

at least one supplier model operable to indicate to the seller models, according to the forecasted sales, promised supply of the product;

at least one customer model operable to indicate to the seller models customer orders for the product; and

wherein the system is operable to indicate to each seller in the hierarchy the allocated supply of the product to the seller.

14.   The system of Claim 13, wherein at least a portion of the allocated supply is designated as retained product not available to promise (ATP).

15. The system of Claim 13, wherein the amount of product available to promise (ATP) at a seller for a forecast entry is determined according to an allocation policy.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the amount may be reduced to zero according to the allocation policy.

17. The system of Claim 15, wherein the allocation policy is selected from the group consisting of:

a first-come-first-served policy;

a per allocated policy;

a per committed policy;

a seller priority policy; and

a predetermined split policy.

18. The system of Claim 13, wherein the system is further operable to distribute the allocated supply according to an allocation policy.

19. The system of Claim 13, wherein at least some of the allocated supply is distributed on a basis selected from the group consisting of:

a first-come-first-served basis;

a per allocated basis;

a per committed basis;

a seller priority basis; and

a predetermined split basis.

20.   The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

at least one specific product model representing a specific product and specifying the components of the specific product;

a plurality of generic product models each representing a generic product and specifying one component of a plurality of possible components of the specific product; and

wherein the system is further operable to provide a customer promise for the specific product according to the related generic products that are available to promise.

21.   The system of Claim 20, wherein generic-specific product relationships repeat throughout the seller hierarchy, there also being organization-member relationships between generic and specific products.

22.   The system of Claim 13, wherein the forecast model has:

an associated forecast period; and

an associated available to promise (ATP) period that it shorter than the forecast period.

23.   The system of Claim 13, wherein the forecast model is operable to reduce the forecasted sales and promised supply according to the customer orders without changing the allocated supply.

24. Software for allowing allocation of products among sellers, the software being embodied in a computer readable medium and operable to:

a hierarchy of at least two seller models, each representing a seller for a product having an associated product forecast model, the forecast model representing:

forecasted sales of the product through each seller according to a commitment level for the seller and forecasted sales through other sellers in the hierarchy;

planned supply of the product;

customer orders for the product through each seller; and

allocated supply of the product to each seller, representing the sum of promises from suppliers plus any customer promises;

at least one supplier model operable to indicate to the seller models, according to the forecasted sales, promised supply of the product;

at least one customer model operable to indicate to the seller models customer orders for the product; and

wherein the system is operable to indicate to each seller in the hierarchy the allocated supply of the product to the seller.

25.   A method operating on at least one computer for allowing allocation of products among sellers, comprising:

representing at least two sellers in a hierarchy using corresponding seller models, each seller model representing a seller for a product having an associated product forecast model, the forecast model representing:

forecasted sales of the product through each seller according to a commitment level for the seller and forecasted sales through other sellers in the hierarchy;

planned supply of the product;

customer orders for the product through each seller; and

allocated supply of the product to each seller, representing the sum of promises from suppliers plus any customer promises;

indicating to the seller models, according to the forecasted sales and using at least one supplier model, promised supply of the product;

indicating to the seller models, using at least one customer model, customer orders for the product; and

indicating to each seller in the hierarchy the allocated supply of the product to the seller.

26.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising designating at least a portion of the allocated supply as retained product not available to promise (ATP).

27.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising determining the amount of product available to promise (ATP) at a seller for a forecast entry according to an allocation policy.

28.   The method of Claim 27, wherein the amount may be reduced to zero according to the allocation policy.

29.   The method of Claim 27, wherein the allocation policy is selected from the group consisting of:

a first-come-first-served policy;

a per allocated policy;

a per committed policy;

a seller priority policy; and

a predetermined split policy.

30.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising distributing the allocated supply according to an allocation policy.

31.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising distributing at least some of the allocated supply on a basis selected from the group consisting of:

a first-come-first-served basis;

a per allocated basis;

a per committed basis;

a seller priority basis; and

a predetermined split basis.

32.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising:

using at least one specific product model to represent a specific product, the specific product model specifying the components of the specific product;

using a plurality of generic product models to represent a plurality of corresponding generic products, the generic product models each specifying one component of a plurality of possible components of the specific product; and

providing a customer promise for the specific product according to the related generic products that are available to promise.